

The Laurens Advertiser.

VOLUME XXX.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1915.

NUMBER 51

CANDIDATES SPEAK BEFORE CLINTONIANS

Initial Meeting of Congressional Campaign Saturday.

ATTENTIVE HEARING
GIVEN THEM ALL

B. A. Morgan, of Greenville, was the First Speaker.

Six candidates offering their services to the people of the Fourth Congressional district to fill the vacancy in the National Hall of Representatives caused by the resignation of Jos. T. Johnson, inaugurated the campaign in this county Monday by speaking before an orderly and attentive audience at Clinton. The meeting was held in the Pastime Theatre which had been kindly loaned for the purpose by its owners. With all doors and windows opened and electric fans sending cooling breezes from every side of the hall, the very best was made of an unusually hot day and the candidates spoke under conditions which were not at all uncomfortable. When the meeting was called to order by Hon. Wilson W. Harris, representative in the state legislature, all of the candidates were present except Mr. Miller, who had misunderstood the time of opening.

When the meeting opened the house was hardly half full, but during the addresses of the first speaker, B. A. Morgan, the crowd gradually increased until there were in the neighborhood of 150 voters present. After the address of Mr. Morgan and Mr. Nicholls the crowd began to dwindle again, though it held up very well until the end, the last speaker, Mr. Miller, being heard by probably two-thirds of those who entered the front door. From the scattered applause which greeted the candidates, little could be gathered as to their relative popularity. Whether or not the little spontaneous outburst of applause following the very brief speech of Mr. Miller intended as an endorsement of what he said or the brevity with which he said it can only be determined by the future. Mr. Miller spoke hardly three minutes, while all of the other candidates took up their full time of thirty minutes.

The candidates confined themselves strictly to discussion of their respective platforms, no appeal being made to local or state factions, the nearest approach to a deviation from this policy being made by Mr. Gantt whose country into classes and sections.

B. A. Morgan.

B. A. Morgan, of Greenville, was the first speaker. Mr. Morgan gave the impression of a self-confident and self-contained man, with a mind trained to precision and order. He said he did not wish to be known as the candidate from Greenville, but as the representative of the entire district. As all of the candidates were already pledged to support the principles of the Democratic platform, they could differ only in method at arriving at these aims. The selection of a congressman, then, was left largely to a matter of personal choice and the voters, he said, would make no mistake in selecting any one of the six candidates. Mr. Morgan advocated increased military preparedness by increasing the number of the citizen soldiery, and the payment of the militia for actual days in training or at work. He advocated government ownership of ships, government supervision and direction of marketing facilities patterning after the State warehouse system, favored rural credits, the return to the South of the illegal cotton tax levied after the Civil war, referring to the desired personal qualifications of a congressman. Mr. Morgan urged that a man be elected who will be able to cope with the trained and finished legislators of the north. Mr. Morgan was well received and closed with some applause.

S. J. Nicholls.

S. J. Nicholls, of Spartanburg, was received with scattering applause. He launched at once into the discussion of his platform. Referring to the \$99,000 deposited by the government in Greenville and Spartanburg banks last fall to aid the farmers of the fourth district market their cotton by borrowing money at a low rate of interest, Mr. Nicholls declared that not a cent of this money reached Laurens

county and that what was loaned in Greenville and Spartanburg was loaned at approximately 9 per cent interest. He would change this by loaning this money through bonded government agents all over the district, at approximately 3 per cent interest. Mr. Nicholls advocated government ownership of ships so that "our products", cotton presumably, could be shipped to Germany. He would have federal aid for good roads, rural credits by which the government would guarantee farm mortgages, opposed the let-aid for good roads, rural credits by contract on account of negro competition. As an indication of his standing in his own community Mr. Nicholls pointed out that he had been county attorney and city attorney for eight consecutive years and through four changes of administration. Mr. Nicholls closed amid applause.

I. C. Blackwood.

Ira C. Blackwood made the most polished speech of the day, his periods being well rounded and his words ornate. He was rather wary of promises. He forecast pensions for Confederate soldiers out of the federal treasury. He injected a new idea into a meeting largely bare of originality in advocating government regulation of railroad rates so that small towns would not be discriminated against to the advantage of cities. To the inequality in freight rates, Mr. Blackwood ascribed the centralization of population and trade. Mr. Blackwood advocates some form of rural credits, but did not go into a detailed discussion of the subject, stating that he had a plan of his own which would not entail depletion of the national treasury. He would have sanitariums built all over the country for the treatment of people unable to pay for the benefits of private sanitariums.

R. J. Gantt.

The keynote of R. J. Gantt's speech was struck in his opening remarks when he said that when the national government failed to "protect my people" from the oppression of northern monopolists last fall, he vowed then he would come out and make a fight for them. Then Mr. Gantt launched into a discussion of business conditions, laying the blame for the poverty of the southern farmers upon the trusts fostered by the national government. As a panacea of these ills, Mr. Gantt proposed a plan for the valorization of cotton. He said that the ship purchase bill was contrary to the principles of the democratic party and was only a scheme to sell German ships interned in American waters. The financial stringency of last fall Mr. Gantt lay at the feet of Secretary McAdoo, who, he said, was in league with Wall street interests. Mr. Gantt's speech was largely a tirade against trusts and corporations.

W. W. Johnson.

W. W. Johnson, of Union, said it was Union's time to have a representative in congress that she had not been favored with representation there in 70 years; the last representative from that county being his grandfather. He did not base his claim for support upon this, however, but in weighing the candidates, he said that where all other things were equal this should be a deciding factor. Mr. Johnson advocated some system of rural credits, but he pointed out that loaning of government money was not sound political economy, as the government had no money to loan, its funds being raised in only two ways, taxation and sale of bonds. He advocated government ownership of ships, favored federal aid for good roads federal pensions for Confederate soldiers and closed by declaring his ambition to do some good for the people of the district and of the nation.

A. H. Miller.

As already stated, A. H. Miller spoke but several minutes, pointing out that he was a farmer and had a knowledge of farmer's needs. He took a little flit at bankers, corporation lawyers and "what-not," saying that if the farmers and laboring classes wanted someone to represent their interests they should elect some one who by reason of his associations knew and was in sympathy with their needs.

To Clean Cemetery.

Persons interested in the Beaver Dam cemetery have been requested to meet at the cemetery on Friday, July 30th, for the purpose of cleaning off the lots. It is desired that plans be made to stay all day so that the work may be thoroughly done.

SITUATION IS CONSIDERED GRAVE

Unsatisfactory Reply of Imperial Government to American Note may Lead to Breaking of Diplomatic Relations if not Worse. President Wilson will Take Time in Framing Reply.

Washington, July 10.—Official Washington takes a grave view of the situation produced by Germany's refusal to meet the demands of the United States growing out of the sinking of the Lusitania with a loss of more than 100 Americans.

Upon President Wilson rests the burden of deciding the policy which the United States is to follow. Quietly and carefully he is considering the situation, it was stated at the White House after telephone communications with the president at Cornish, N. H., and the country may expect him to act with "deliberation as well as firmness" when he has examined all phases of the problem.

Secretary Lansing withheld comment. As soon as the complete official text of the German reply arrives, which will be tomorrow, he will begin a careful study of it and on Monday or Tuesday will go to Cornish for a conference with the president. The president will then return to lay before the cabinet the course upon which he has determined.

But One Course.

What action the United States will take officials today could not predict with certainty. Some of those who have been familiar with the president's point of view and with the details of the present situation, however, pointed out that there seemed to be but one course open with dignity and honor to the United States—the continued assertion and exercise of the rights of neutrals on the high seas in accordance with the established principles of international law. Responsibility for any rupture in friendly relations which might subsequently ensue between the United States and Germany, it was declared, would then fall

upon the Berlin government. There is as yet no definite crystallization of opinion among officials as to details but the distinct tendency is toward a reiteration not only in a formal note but in actual practice of the principles for which the United States has been contending.

Brings No Advance.

The unanimous verdict of high officials was that the German reply was thoroughly unsatisfactory and leaves the situation exactly at the point where it was in the days immediately following the sinking of the Lusitania.

While the continued assertion of American rights in the future is urged as a logical course to be followed, it is recognized also that the United States can not abandon the demands it has made for the disavowal of intent to drown Americans and demand for reparation.

Germany's refusal on these points may lead to steps by the United States to show its disapproval of the last note. Whether Ambassador Gerard might be recalled or a complete severance of diplomatic relations ordered was again discussed in official circles as well as among diplomatists.

Before taking any definite steps, however, officials familiar with diplomatic precedent and international usage declared that the American government probably would send a note to Germany formally rejecting the proposal to permit the unrestricted use of American passenger ships provided they carried no munitions of war. In the same note formal notification probably would be given to the German government of the intention of the United States to continue to exercise its rights with the announced expectation that they would be respected.

CITY TO BUY AUTO FIRE TRUCK

One of the Most Modern and Up-to-date Machines Contemplated.

Asked yesterday as to the prospects of the city buying an auto fire truck, Mayor Babb stated that the council had had the matter under deliberation for some time and had about definitely decided to purchase one of the most modern and up-to-date machines on the market, an American LaFrance triple combination machine, costing in the neighborhood of \$8,000, less \$500 which the manufacturers would allow for the chemical tank on the present hose wagon.

The mayor showed a copy of a letter which the city clerk had written to other cities, enquiring about the machine, and the replies received. Letters commending the fire truck very highly were received from Anderson, Orangeburg, Atlanta, Spartanburg, Columbia, Ga., Greensboro, N. C., and numerous other places.

The machine which the city fathers have in view, as the name indicates, is a combination hose, chemical, pumping and ladder machine, capable of doing every class of work required in a city this large or larger.

LAST DAY FOR ENROLLMENT.

Tomorrow is the last day for men who have become of age since the last election to enroll their names upon the primary enrollment book. Failure to enroll today or tomorrow will bar one from voting in the congressional primary. Those whose names were enrolled before the last primary will not have to enroll again. According to a letter written to Mr. C. A. Power, by State Chairman John Gary Evans, persons who have moved since the last election will be entitled to vote at the precinct where they voted in 1914.

Death of a Child.

The friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Culbertson, of Maddens, sympathize with them in the loss of their little ten months' old child, who died last Tuesday morning. The child had been sick for some time. Interment took place in the Union church cemetery the same afternoon, being preceded by short services at the home, lead by Mr. C. B. Bobo.

GREENWOOD ROGERS SAVED FROM CHAIR

Governor Manning Commutes Sentence of Greenwood Rogers Upon Recommendation of the Pardon Board.

Greenwood Rogers, alleged to have been the ring leader in a trio of negroes, implicated in the murder and subsequent burning of the body of Mr. Geo. F. Young, near Reno this county, in the spring of 1914, and sentenced to the electric chair at the fall term of court in 1914, was saved from electrocution by Gov. Manning Saturday, the governor commuting his sentence to life imprisonment. Rogers was originally sentenced to be electrocuted on October 14, 1914, but was twice respited, the last time upon the very eve of his electrocution. The commutation Saturday was made upon the recommendation of the pardon board. The history of the case, which is still fresh in the memory of the people of this county, was reviewed in the report of the pardon board, which is as follows:

"This case comes from Laurens county, Rogers, as convicted of arson and sentenced to be electrocuted. Mr. A. G. Hart appeared before us in behalf of Rogers and Solicitor Cooper was called in by the pardon board for consultation.

"Rogers was first convicted of murder, with recommendation to mercy. This conviction was had upon the testimony of Tom Young, another negro, who confessed that he, Rogers and Junk Caldwell killed Mr. Young. He claimed that Rogers first shot Mr. Young, then hit him in the head with an axe and then burned the house over the body. After the first trial, in which Rogers and Caldwell were both convicted of murder, with recommendation to mercy, and given life imprisonment, Rogers alone was put upon trial for arson and convicted without recommendation to mercy. Tom Young pleaded guilty of murder, with recommendation to mercy and is now serving a sentence of life imprisonment.

"We talked to Rogers and also to Caldwell, but did not see Young, as he is on the Laurens county chain gang. This is a very close case and, assuming that all three of the negroes are guilty of the horrible crime, we still think that this negro should be saved from the electric chair. In the first place, there is some doubt as to his guilt at all. This is shown by the fact that the first jury recommended him to the mercy of the court, and by the further fact that the solicitor accepted a plea of guilty from Tom Young, which plea carried with it life imprisonment. If the negroes are guilty they are equally guilty, and if Tom Young and Junk Caldwell are to escape with life imprisonment, we think it would be unjust to let Greenwood Rogers die.

"We therefore recommend that his sentence be commuted to life imprisonment."

DIED IN DENVER.

Former Laurens County Citizen Passed Away in Western City.

Jack M. Drummond, son of the late J. H. Drummond, former supervisor of this county, died in a Denver, Col., sanitarium Friday of pneumonia. He had gone west about a year ago in search of health. The body was brought to Fountain Inn yesterday and carried to Harmony church for interment, a large number of friends and relatives being present.

Mr. Drummond was 35 years of age. He was born in Spartanburg county, but was reared in this county. For the past few years he has been living in Spartanburg.

He is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Messrs. G. M. and W. E. Drummond, of Spartanburg; J. H. of Fountain Inn; Misses Amelia and Dora, of Laurens; Mrs. Parsons, of Fountain Inn; Mrs. John D. Owings and Mrs. T. E. Babb, of this city.

Had Leg Broken.

While doing some work for the Southern Bell Telephone Company near Orangeburg last week, Mr. Frank Henderson, who is well known here, fell from a tree which was being trimmed and broke his leg just above the ankle. Both bones of the leg were broken. They were set in Orangeburg but had to be set again Saturday in Columbia. His father, Mr. J. W. Henderson went down for the operation and states that he is doing as well as could be expected.

JOSEPH N. HOLMES DIES IN COLORADO

Native of Laurens but Resident of Washington.

HEADED FEDERAL
BUREAU OF MINES

A Man Whose Reputation in His Chosen Field Extended Beyond the Bounds of the Nation. Chosen for the High Position He Held Because of Merit and Industry.

Doctor Joseph Austin Holmes, chief of the bureau of mines and mining at Washington, a scientist of nation wide reputation, and native of this county, died in Denver, Col., yesterday morning of an affection of the lungs.

He will be buried Saturday in Washington where he has a home and where he has spent the latter years of his life.

Dr. Holmes was the son of the late Rev. Z. L. Holmes and Mrs. N. C. Holmes and was in the 55th year of his life. His early training was at the old Laurens Male Academy. He later entered Cornell University from which he graduated with high honors. At the completion of his college course, Doctor Holmes was elected Professor of Geology at the University of North Carolina, at the same time holding the position of state geologist. Later he accepted the position of director of the National Geographic Survey under President Roosevelt and while holding this position was made director of the mineralogical exhibit at the St. Louis exposition. After the completion of his task in this office, he was named by President Taft as Director of the bureau of mines and mining. This office he held until the time of his death.

Doctor Holmes was a recognized authority on scientific matters, particularly those which affected the national welfare and the lives of the people. As chief of the bureau of mines and mining, it was his duty to have an oversight of the vast mining operations carried on in this country, to render aid in the development of the country's mining resources and to protect the lives and rights of the miners themselves. By his constant work in the effort to safeguard the lives of the miners, Dr. Holmes gained the good will of mine owners and miners and it was due to their combined influence that he was held at the head of the bureau during the administration of a hostile political party. It was in the pursuit of his duties in Alaska that he contracted the malady which caused his death.

Doctor Holmes enjoyed many honors from scientific and other educational sources. Because of his services in later life the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Sciences. In all of his various positions and in his private life, "service" might be called the keynote, service to his country and to his fellowman. Personal pleasure and profit were secondary to the consideration of his duty to mankind. With an abiding faith in the people, he labored for them.

Dr. Holmes was married early in life to Miss Janie Sprunt, of Wilmington, N. C., and she, with four children, survives him. He is also survived by the following brothers and sisters: Rev. J. N. Holmes, Greenville; A. R. Holmes, Lisbon, this county; Mrs. Dr. L. S. Fuller, of this city; and Miss Mary Belle Fuller of Columbia.

LAURENS WINS AGAIN.

Defeats The Ware Shoals Agregation In Shut-Out Game.

The Laurens Mill team defeated the Ware Shoals team in a good game here last Saturday by the score of 5 to 0, the feature of the game being the fancy twirling by Couch for the locals. Only three of the visitors succeeded in getting safeties. The batteries were for Ware Shoals Wharton, Graham and Livingston. For Laurens Mill, Couch and Burgess. The Laurens boys will tackle the same team in Ware Shoals Saturday.

Tailoring Display.

A representative of the Griffin Tailoring Company will be at Minter Company on July 14th and 15th with a handsome exhibition of fall and winter fabrics.